

Message Text

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70

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCI-06 DODE-00 NSF-04 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

CG-00 IO-15 ACDA-19 INT-08 COA-02 COME-00 PRS-01

DRC-01 /122 W

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R 012145Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3776

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, AR, US, MARR, XV

SUBJECT: ANTARCTICA: AGREEMENT ON MARAMBIO AIRFIELD

REF: (A) STATE 191495 (B) BA 5843

1. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS, ARGENTINE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF CONTINUES TO HOLD STRONGLY TO VIEW THAT THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS FOR NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT ON MARAMBIO UNLESS PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF NOTES MAKES SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ARGENTINE AIR FORCE AS AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR GOA AND TO THE BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE AIR FORCE IS DESIRED, AS STATED REFTEL B, BECAUSE OF AIR FORCE CONCERN THAT IT BE THE SOLE ARGENTINE AGENCY INVOLVED; THE AIR FORCE TAKES THE POSITION THAT IT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY BROADER ARRANGEMENT. THE AIR FORCE FURTHER STATES THAT, UNLESS THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED, ANY AGREEMENT ON MARAMBIO UNDER PRESENT RULES WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE ARGENTINE CONGRESS WHERE ITS PROSPECTS AT BEST WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY POOR IN VIEW OF THE STRONG NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS CURRENTLY PREVAILING IN THE CONGRESS.

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2. AAF ACCORDINGLY HAS PROPOSED FOLLOWING CHANGES IN PROPOSED

DRAFT NOTE:

A. INSERTION OF THE COORDINATES (64 14' 08" S - 56 38' 05W)

AFTER MENTION OF THE MARAMBIO AIR BASE IN PARAGRAPH NO 1.

B. SECOND PARAGRAPH TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "... CONCLUDE WITH THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE AN ARRANGEMENT REGARDING COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE VICE COMODORO MARAMBIO AIR BASE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1972".

C. AAF ACCEPTS PROPOSED WORDING OF PARAGRAPH 3.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND DESIRE STATED IN REFTEL (A) TO OMIT ANY REFERENCE TO THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH WE HAD UNDERSTOOD WAS NEGOTIATED AS UMBRELLA-TYPE AGREEMENT TO COVER SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS. EMBASSY NOTES STATEMENT IN FIRST PARAGRAPH OF REFTEL (A) TO THE EFFECT THAT USG IS IN FACT PREPARED TO SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT ON MARAMBIO WITH THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE UNDER THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES AIR FORCE'S POSITION ON THIS POINT TO BE WELL TAKEN AND FULLY SHARES VIEW THAT AGREEMENT OF THIS KIND LIKELY TO BE LONG DELAYED AT BEST IF APPROVAL BY ARGENTINE CONGRESS IS REQUIRED.

4. BEFORE APPROACHING FOREIGN OFFICE, REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO INCLUDE CHANGES PROPOSED BY AAF IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE.

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Message Attributes

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